(c) and (d) The Ministry of Textiles does not provide financial assistance to the private and co-operative sector mills. The financial assistance given to the Public Sector mills (NTC) during the last five years are as follows:

| Year | Rupees in Lakh |
|---|---|
| 1994-95 | 150.59 |
| 1995-96 | 183.30 |
| 1996-97 | 246.10 |
| 1997-98 | 555.88 |
| 1998-99 | 173.02 |

**Reduction in export Price by Coir Board**

1514. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have given any instructions to the Coir Board to reduce the rate of existing minimum export price of 1997 to the rate of 1995; and

(b) If so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN):

(a) and (b) The MEP was last revised in 1995. The Central Government had not agreed to any further upward revision because a study was being conducted by the Coir Board for reviewing the matter. It was decided to take a decision in this regard on receipt of the study report.

**Corpus fund for jute Industry**

1515. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Jute Industries has agrued the Centre to create corpus fund out of the production cess collected from the industry, for modernization product development and market promotion; and